

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS.

HILLERY TAX LAW

INVESTIGATED BY A BOARD OF TRADE COMMITTEE.

Presented an Unsatisfactory Law—Imposes Unfair Share of Tax Burden on Small Property—Repeat of the Law Urged.

The Board of Trade's Committee on Taxes and Assessments has by request of the Board been making an investigation of the Hillery Tax law and reported its conclusion at the Board of Trade meeting Thursday night. The report was read by W. W. Brock and was as follows:

In response to the resolution passed at the last regular meeting of the Board of Trade that it's Committee on Taxes and Assessments should investigate and report to the Board, upon an act passed by the New Jersey State Legislature known as the "Hillery Act," and which is to go into effect January 1st next, this committee begs to report as follows:

Your Committee has carefully gone into the merits of this bill and also the question of taxation as related thereto, which question, it is quite superfluous to state is a most abstruse one. There has been at various times and in different committees, both in this country and abroad, experiments in trying to evolve an equitable tax law with more or less success, usually less, and there is nothing which lies closer to the heart of the people. It is not the wish of this Committee to exhaustively go into this question, but it is their desire, in leading up to the law in hand, to state that while the author of this act may have, and no doubt did, honestly and earnestly conceive it, believing it to be for the best interests of the tax payers of this State, still its operation could work to their detriment. In fact, only last week Senator Hillery stated at the Union League Club of Orange, that it was necessary to amend laws from year to year and is already proposed to offer an amendment to this one which is not yet in effect. Your committee, however, believes that amendments will not help us any, but that the law should be repealed and for the following reasons: Without going into all the details of this act, which we feel assured is familiar to the great majority of taxpayers, we have been extremely desirous, we propose to touch upon its two most important features: First, the fixed rate and the retrograde clause which act upon the rate.

As to the former which is fixed at \$1.70 per \$100 of assessed value for all cities of \$50,000 and over and \$1.50 for municipalities of less than \$50,000, we believe to be too arbitrary, and the retrograde clause, which would work to the detriment of the individual taxpayer and more particularly to those who can least afford it. It would also handicap the administration of a number of municipalities, produce an unequal and excessive pro-rata share towards county taxes, and a point not to be overlooked, would relieve corporations, particularly railroads of a fair proportion of their taxes for reasons which we believe are well known to you all. The referendum clause, which leaves to the voters the discretion, by exercising their franchise of making a higher rate, puts into operation cumbersome and expensive machinery and if exercised would of course add to what this Act is supposed to accomplish.

It is therefore the opinion of your committee that the Board of Trade of Bloomfield should add their plea for the immediate repeal of this law and resolutions be adopted at this meeting towards that end.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY STERNBERGER, Chairman.

Sunday-School Election.

The following persons were elected at the annual meeting of the Sunday-School Board of Park M. E. Sunday-School, Wednesday evening: Superintendent, George E. Bedell; assistant superintendent, Miss Lillie Galloway; secretary, Charles G. Clark; assistant secretary, James Norwalk; treasurer, Fred H. Carl; librarians, John De Hart, Nelson H. Carl, Frank Baker; pianist, Miss Mary Berntsen; chorister, Mrs. B. S. Woodruff.

Woman's Missionary Society.

Thyssen House and Kindergarten, was the subject of discussion at a meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society of the First Baptist Church, held Thursday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. William J. Cochran, 115 Midland avenue.

Basket-Ball.

The Bloomfield High School basketball team, composed of Frank Maxwell, Harris Maxfield, Fred Tydeman, James Adams, Jr., and Kenneth Starkweather, will meet the Orange High School team in the courts of the Orange Y. M. C. A. on Monday night.

Silver Wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. William B. Rawson celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their wedding day with a silver wedding on Saturday evening 1-15 at their home, corner of Williamson avenue and Liberty street. Many friends were present and they had an enjoyable time, and were hospitably entertained by the host and hostess. The parlors were decorated with cut flowers and smilax. Mr. and Mrs. Rawson were assisted in receiving by their daughter, the Misses Mabel and Maud Rawson. Mr. Rawson was an assistant chief of the fire department for several years, and is the president of the Firemen's Relief Association. The couple have had five children, four of whom are living, two sons and two daughters.

Those present were Mrs. Henry Mitchell, Miss Helen L. Mitchell and Henry A. Mitchell of Jersey City; Mrs. George Streib and Miss Lillian Streib of Mount Vernon, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. John P. Steth and Miss Bertha Steth of Newark; Adam Lind, Miss Clara Lind, George E. Baldwin, Mrs. Abraham Walker, Miss Mary Walker, Miss Harriet Walker, Jas. Newell, Mrs. Charles Hummel, Mrs. Frank Gaba, Mrs. James T. Rawson, Miss Leola Garrison, David G. Garbrant, Miss Hattie K. Garbrant, Leonard Lewis, Miss Clara Lewis, Harry S. Wright, Charles Murray, Miss Margaret Murray, Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Rawson, George Rawson, Roy Rawson, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rawson, Robert Rawson, Mr. and Mrs. William Douglas Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar D. Ackerman, Laura B. Sutton, Harry L. Osborne, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. King, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard F. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. George Westervelt, Mr. and Mrs. George Lohr, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Schiele, Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Gabe, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Poyers, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Raemach, Mr. and Mrs. John Jaeger, Jr., Mrs. John Jaeger, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Raab, Mr. and Mrs. George Fornoff, all of this town.

Annual Banquet.

The Owl Bowling Club held its thirtieth annual meeting at Leutausers Hotel Monday night, when these officers were elected: President, William Mueller; vice-president, Augustus C. Ashbey; secretary, Charles Hildebrandt; treasurer, Albert Gattiker; captain, Charles Nicolai. These committees were appointed: Alky, Albert Gattiker, Daniel A. Schiele, Christian O. Hiltner; finance, William E. Johnson, James Wilson and Jesse G. Green. The members are: William Mueller, Arthur Luthausser, James C. Green, John Stanford, A. P. Gattiker, Charles Nicolai, Arthur Luthausser, Jr., Leopold Block, James Wilson, Dr. F. O. Conover, Augustus Ashley, Christian Hiltner, William L. Johnson, David P. Lyall, D. A. Schiele, Charles Hildebrandt, Charles A. Keyler, James M. Beldon and William Oarson. The club has a balance in the treasury and no outstanding debts. A banquet followed at which speeches were made by President Mueller, Arthur Luthausser, Town Clerk Johnson, D. P. Lyall, Counsellman Jesse G. Green and Charles W. Ohabot.

Alumni Reunion at the High School.

An enjoyable time is anticipated at the High School on Friday afternoon, December 22, when many of the alumni, who are still prolonging their school days in higher institutions of learning will be present and interest the pupils in brief talks concerning their respective colleges. It is believed that this will prove profitable as well as enjoyable to the pupils in the High School, and also afford a pleasant opportunity not only to those now in college for meeting former schoolmates, but also to all alumni who can arrange to be present at two o'clock on that day.

Hurt in a Runaway.

Abraham Garbrant, a well-known farmer of Upper Broad street, was severely injured in a runaway at Bloomfield avenue and Grove street Friday night of last week. Garbrant's team became frightened at a trolley car and he was thrown from his seat and sustained a compound fracture of the left leg and a severe cut on the side of his head. He was conveyed in an ambulance to the Mountaineer Hospital.

Held for Grand Jury.

John W. Smith, formerly a driver in the employ of the U. S. Express Company at its local office, was taken into custody Monday morning on a charge of embezzlement, preferred by a surety company of Manhattan. The letter had been on Smith's bond, and the amount named in the complaint is \$60. Policeman Gilbert Smith made the arrest. He was held in jail for the grand jury.

Knocked from His Wheel. Frank Johnson, aged twelve years, was riding his bicycle on Ridgewood avenue, Glen Ridge, Tuesday morning when he collided with a butcher wagon and was thrown violently from his wheel, his head striking the ground. Dr. Harris attended the injured boy.

A FINE LECTURE

Delivered by Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis in the First Presbyterian Church Monday Night—Oliver Cromwell the Subject—Large Audience Delighted.

President Howard B. Davis of the First Presbyterian Church Guild paid a fine tribute of praise to the Rev. Dr. N. Dwight Hillis of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, in introducing the doctor as the speaker at the fourth entertainment of the guild course on Monday night. Those who enjoyed the pleasure of hearing Dr. Hillis were in perfect accord with all that Mr. Davis said. It was one of the many fine treats that the guild has graciously afforded the people of this town in the way of high class, interesting and profitable entertainment. Dr. Hillis had been announced to lecture on the subject of "America and Its People." When he arose to speak he told the audience that he had a lecture on Oliver Cromwell and his work in England, which afforded some striking parallels with the present crisis in Russia, which, in his opinion, might prove the most interesting subject under the present circumstances, and he offered the audience the choice of subjects, which was decided by show of hands. The majority favored the Cromwell lecture. America, however, was not lost sight of in the change of subject, for Dr. Hillis pointed out America's indebtedness to Cromwell for the political liberty and the religious tolerance now enjoyed by the American people.

It was a masterly discourse, and if the audience was taken over some well beaten historic paths, many new and interesting things were pointed out, and many historical incidents were examined from a new point of view. Cromwell as a soldier, as a statesman and a Christian were the main headlines of the lecture. The lecturer vividly and eloquently portrayed the political, social and religious conditions prevailing in England when Cromwell appeared on the scene. He told how Cromwell smashed the doctrine of the divine right of kings to reign supreme, and also destroyed the feudalism in England. Cromwell found England an insignificant and despised power in European affairs. He made and secured for it a strong, respected and influential place in the world. He filled up the gulf between papacy and nationalism, and raised the great middle class of England.

The speaker drew an instructive parallel between the political and social conditions prevailing in England in Cromwell's time and the conditions which now exist in Russia, and which are the source and cause of the revolution there. His recital of incidents of cruelty and oppression in England and France during Cromwell's period and of the revolution in Russia in these days was very thrilling. Dr. Hillis, like President Roosevelt, is evidently a Cromwellian nationalist. He spoke in glowing terms of the neglect of the British people in failing to show appreciation of the great work of Cromwell.

Such a lecture as that delivered by Dr. Hillis here on Monday night will doubtless stimulate historic study among young people as to Cromwell and his time, and such study cannot but result in a higher appreciation of the civil and religious liberty of the present times, and will also tend to direct attention to the dangers that are ever present and must be guarded against, if the present day happy conditions are to be maintained and improved upon. That gifted man, like Dr. Hillis, who on the lecture platform to-day is a good thing for the country, and the First Church Guild could be encouraged in no more fitting and splendid work than in making it possible for the people of this town to occasionally enjoy a repeat of the rich, historic and best thought as exemplified in men like Dr. Hillis, who stand for Christian patriotism.

Reception to Superintendent.

A reception was given to Nicholas Arnold, superintendent of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Sunday-school, at his home, 72 Race street, by the members of the church Saturday night. Mr. Arnold received many handsome presents. Among those present were Mrs. Charles Weber, Philip Weber, Mrs. George Kramer and George Kramer, Jr., of New York; the Rev. Henry A. and Mrs. Steinger, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Liebrook and Miss Liebrook, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Sherer, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Grieshaber, William Corpe, the Rev. Frederick Schoeber and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schoeber.

Essex Truck Company Meeting.

At a meeting of Essex Hook and Ladder Company on Tuesday night the subject of the compensation to firemen in lieu of the exemption from taxes formerly allowed was discussed. It was stated that the matter would come before the Town Council shortly. The Glen Ridge Council is now awaiting a decision from Halsey M. Barrett on the same matter. Seymour P. Gilbert and William L. Johnson were elected representatives of the company in the Firemen's Relief Association.

TOWN TOPICS.

Matters that are Attracting More or Less Public Attention—The Public Schools—Entertainments—Attractive and Otherwise—Local County and State Politics.

The public schools close on Friday, the 22d inst. for the holiday vacation, and the first term of the school year likewise closes on that date.

While public interest in the schools has not at all lessened, it has been noticeable that school matters have not of late been a predominant topic in public discussion. The members of the Board of Education all appear to be unanimous in believing that all that pertains to the educational department of the local government is going on smoothly and easily, and the members of the board are not being called on to explain to indignant parents the reason for this or that innovation in school work or changes of grades or transferring of pupils. The school term just closing has been an eminently satisfactory one, and good practical work is being done and the fact that school affairs are less talked about is perhaps good evidence of a wide and general satisfaction with the present state of the schools.

This is the active season of social entertainments. For the better class of entertainments furnished in the town the people are largely dependent upon the church societies. The First Presbyterian Church Guild stands at the head in this line of work, and it affords the people of this town a quality of entertainment not elsewhere. Other church societies also present enjoyable entertainments.

There is a large class of people in the town, however, for whom church society entertainments have no attraction. This class must have dancing in unlimited quantity and the desire for dancing is being more extensively catered to here this season than ever before, and some people who own large hall rooms that have hitherto been unprofitable adjuncts to saloons now find a demand for them from dancing masters. Dancing appears to be the popular amusement this season.

The Essex County members of the Assembly have been criticized for violating the time honored political law of the state of the majority. It is claimed that in everything affecting the organization of the Legislature the Republicans were in the majority, and as Republicans, the Essex members should acquiesce in the decisions of the majority in regard to the organization of the Legislature. The Essex members may not be acting in accord with regulation politics, but it must be remembered that one cause of the popular support given them by the people at the polls was due to a faith that they would show a spirit of independence in their legislative work and not be bound by traditions, precedents and conventionalities that make men elected to public offices the tools of bosses who shrewdly gag and blind them with devices that pass under the mild name of political etiquette.

There is another, good and substantial reason that justifies the action of the Essex delegation at Trenton from holding aloof from hard and fast caucus rules. They were elected for an explicit purpose, and there is reason to suspect that there exists powerful influences at Trenton that are inimical to the objects that the Colby platform aims at. That platform represents the will of the people of Essex county, and if the Essex delegates subjected themselves to the iron rule of caucus they would no doubt find themselves thwarted at every step by the inimical interest likely to exercise a controlling influence in legislation. As matters stand now if the franchise and tax legislation demanded by the Colby platform is not carried out the way is clear to fix the responsibility, and the people will know who to punish and when to apply the punishment.

Senator Everett Colby and his Assembly colleagues are pursuing a consistent policy. Previous to election they refused to bow to the technical rules of a political organization in this county, and the people of the county approved their independent stand. At Trenton they again refused to be bound by the technicalities of a higher and more expansive political institution, and there is no doubt at all but the large majority of those who voted for them are proud of the position they have taken.

As matters stand now it looks as if another appeal to the people will have to be made next fall, and if the Essex members of the Legislature, Senator and Assemblyman hold to their present determination to do nothing that will jeopardize the interests they represent, they will go to Trenton again largely reinforced.

The twentieth annual meeting of the Bloomfield Building and Loan Association will be held on Monday, January 2, when a new series of stock will be opened.

Bloomfield Mission.

It is not intended that the following be a complete report of the work done during the past year at the Bloomfield Mission—for the work of the year is not yet finished—but continues, and will continue in the lives of those helped by the means which the Holy Spirit has bestowed.

A report of this nature will not be complete until that final day, when "God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ," for then will those who have been enabled to hear the Gospel by your aid "receive the things done in the body." Who can tell at that time how many will point to the store at 309 Glenwood avenue as the place, where, under the power of the Spirit of God, conviction of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, first was manifested?

A Gospel service of praise, of explanation of the Word of Life, of exhortation, has been held every Sunday night in the year, and few services have been allowed to close without a solemn warning of the danger to those without Christ or an invitation to accept of God's free pardon and mercy. These Sunday night meetings have been attended throughout the year on an average by thirty-eight persons; and as the room has not accommodations for more than sixty, this represents a good attendance.

On the approach of cold weather the open-air meetings held during the summer at the Centre on Friday nights were continued at the mission, and the Friday night meeting for prayer has been very helpful.

The financial expenses for the year, not counting several small bills paid from the evening collections, were \$189.90, which have been met with subscriptions and by collections to the amount of \$190.

This opportunity is taken to thank the Bloomfield Evangelical Union for their generous gifts, the Baptist Sunday-school and Burden Bearers, also the Senior Circle of King's Daughters of Glen Ridge and the Sunday-school of the Glen Ridge Congregational Church, and the Sunday-school of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, for providing gifts for the children of the mission at Christmas, and not forgetting a friend of the mission who, for love of the Master, "did what she could," and at great sacrifice—and yet a willing sacrifice—a handsome donation, and the many friends who, by their prayers, their gifts, their labors, and their presence, have enabled the door of the mission to be kept open throughout the year.

Christmas Cantata.

The Christmas cantata "Santa's Success" will be presented by the pupils of the Fairview School in the school assembly hall on Thursday evening, December 21. Eighty pupils will take part in the cantata, and as a result of diligent training and frequent rehearsals it will be well presented. Miss Cornelia Corwin, Miss Leona Sobatowski and Miss Ella Ferguson are the directors of music, and Miss Ruth Thomas director of dialogue. This entertainment is for the benefit of the picture fund of the school. An admission fee of twenty-five cents will be charged, and the proceeds used in purchasing pictures.

A Persistent Runaway.

Leighton Hastings, the nine-year-old Hackensack boy who has a mania for running away from home and coming to this town, disappeared from the home of Edward Kreger in Lake street Sunday morning half an hour before the arrival of his stepfather, Henry Abbott of Hackensack. The boy, when he ran away on Friday of last week, is alleged to have taken his brother's silver watch, and it was his fear of arrest which prompted him to leave the Kreger home, where he once boarded.

Letter Carriers' Election.

Branch No. 336, National Association of Letter Carriers, elected the following officers Tuesday afternoon: President, William H. Hall; vice-president, William Wallace Oadmus; secretary, George S. Forgo; treasurer, Frank P. Oadmus; collector for mutual benefit association, Samuel G. Bayter; clerk of retirement association, George S. Forgo; financial secretary, Frank L. Baker; sergeant-at-arms, Oliver Gourley. President Hall will give a supper to the members of the association at his home in Thomas street on Saturday night, December 30.

Whist Tournament Closed.

The bridge whist tournament, which has been in progress at the Glen Ridge Club for several weeks, was concluded Tuesday night. The prizes were won by Mrs. H. S. Wood, Mrs. William E. Smith, Ernest E. Bell and H. M. Edwards. On December 21 the regular bowling team will roll a game with the Roseville Club on the Glen Ridge alleys.

Medical Society Election.

Dr. Henry H. Whitehorn of Verona has been elected president of the Mountaineer Hospital staff in place of Dr. Chas. H. Bailey of this town, who resigned. Dr. Edwin M. Ward, also of this town, has been chosen vice-president.

BOARD OF TRADE

HELD ITS REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING THURSDAY NIGHT.

Interesting Reports Made by Sub-Committees—Some Extraordinary Matters Suggested for Action by the Board—Officers Nominated for Election at the Next Meeting.

The Board of Trade held its quarterly meeting on Thursday night in Building and Loan Hall. Reports were submitted by several of the sub-committees as follows: Fred J. Ogden for the Internal Trade Committee; W. W. Brock for the Taxes and Assessments Committee; Harry White for the Fourth of July Committee, and Thomas McGowan for the Executive Committee. The Hillery tax, law, local credit, patriotism, Morris canal bill, Board of Health powers and Commission of Tax Appeals powers were the items presented for discussion.

Mr. McGowan reported the Executive Committee's recommendations for officers to be elected at the next meeting of the board. The nominations were: for secretary, John J. Hughes; treasurer, Charles R. Underwood; members of the Executive Committee, John A. Lawrence and William P. Sutphen. For the office of president of the board Mr. McGowan said that the committee was not prepared to nominate a candidate. On motion of Allison Dodd the committee was instructed to continue its work in search of a candidate for president and report at the next meeting.

Hugh D. King spoke of the necessity of the adoption of a building ordinance for this town, and he made a motion that the board request the Town Council to adopt such an ordinance.

M. N. Higgins said that the adoption of such an ordinance involved the appointment of an inspector of buildings at a salary of probably one to two thousand dollars per annum, and was likely to impose other burdens on the taxpayers and builders.

Charles F. Kocher opposed the immediate adoption of Mr. King's motion on the ground that the majority of members of the board were not sufficiently familiar with the matter, and on his suggestion the question was referred to the Committee on Grounds and Buildings for investigation and report.

President Sutphen submitted a letter from Senator-elect Everett Colby, as follows:

December 13, 1905.

MR. WILLIAM F. SUTPHEN: DEAR SIR—Would it be possible for you as president of the Bloomfield Board of Trade to appoint a special committee to confer with a similar committee representing the Essex county legislative members-elect with reference to the proposed legislation in the limitation of franchise? We desire to frame a bill on this subject before the first of January, and as we believe your board is greatly interested in this matter, we would like the opinion of some of its representative members.

Very truly yours,

EVERETTE COLBY.

The president was authorized to comply with Mr. Colby's request.

Mr. Boardman suggested that the Legislative Committee take up the Morris canal abandonment bill, and ascertain to what extent Bloomfield's interests were involved in the matter.

Mr. McGowan, chairman of that committee, realizing the size and importance of the work it was proposed to impose upon the committee, asked for an explicit statement as to what was intended that the Legislative Committee should do in the matter.

Mr. Boardman was not prepared to suggest anything more than that the committee should take up the matter in a general way and report to the board.

James H. Moore, for the Committee on Sewers and Drainage, reported that matters referred to that committee had been investigated, and as for the question of sewerage for the Silver Lake district it was an impossibility at present.

Harry L. Osborne brought up the question of the collection of garbage, and suggested that the board make recommendation to the town authorities in regard to it.

Harry White said that his investigation of the garbage collection matter convinced him that it was a profitable business for private enterprise in some places, and he thought that as soon as conditions warranted here in Bloomfield the matter would be taken up by private scavengers.

M. N. Higgins was of the same opinion and cited the experience of Mountclair in trying to institute a garbage collection system at public expense.

Harry White suggested an investigation of the work of the commissioners of tax appeals by the Board of Trade, but his suggestion was not adopted.

M. N. Higgins made some inquiries as to the powers of the Board of Health in abating nuisances. President Sutphen ruled that his queries were of a nature to be taken direct to the Board of Health personally.